



CHAP. X.

Joseph's Conduct towards his Brethren, &c.

WHILE they stood in this submissive way before Joseph, he said, with a lordly voice, "From whence do ye come?" And they answered, "Thy servants are come from the land of

Canaan; having families at home, starving for want of food, in this time of famine, we wish to buy corn that they may be supplied." Joseph, for reasons which do not appear sufficiently evident to determine what they were, was resolved to dissemble to them; and putting on a frown, cried out, "I suspect you intend to deceive me; and there being so many of you in one company, I suppose you are spies from some neighbouring Prince, come to make observations on the land in this distressed situation." At this an universal terror took possession of their spirits, and they replied, with trembling: "No, my Lord, do not take us to be such wicked persons, as to design to deceive my Lord; for we are all one man's sons, and being brethren, we thought it fit to come in company with each other." But Joseph exclaimed, "Away with all your excuses, for ye are spies, that are come to see the nakedness of the land."

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